

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A network interface device connectable to a network, the device being arranged to receive digital audio data representing an audio signal and to launch data packets representing the digital audio data onto the network, the device comprising:

an audio level detector having a processor programmed to generate, from audio properties of the digital audio data, audio level data representing an audio level of the audio signal; and

a packetiser operable:

to format the digital audio data into audio data packets to be launched onto the network, and

to format the audio level data into audio level data packets, separate from the audio data packets, to be launched onto the network.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): A device according to claim 1, being arranged to launch the audio data packets and the audio level data packets onto the network as separate respective multicast groups.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): A device according to claim 1, in which the audio level detector is arranged to generate the audio level data representing the audio level at periodic intervals.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): A device according to claim 1, in which:

the digital audio data is associated with digital video data representing a video signal having a picture repetition period;

the audio level detector is arranged to generate the audio level data at least once in each successive picture repetition period.

Claim 6 (Original): A device according to claim 5, in which the picture repetition period is a frame repetition period.

Claim 7 (Original): A device according to claim 5, in which the picture repetition period is a field repetition period.

Claim 8 (Original): A device according to claim 5, in which the digital video data is received by the device as part of an composite data stream carrying both the digital video data and the digital audio data.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A device according to claim 8, further comprising:

a data converter for converting the digital audio data of the composite data stream into separate digital audio data to be launched onto the network as audio data packets,

in which the packetiser is operable to format the digital video data into video data packets to be launched onto the network.

Claim 10 (Original): A device according to claim 8, in which the packetiser is operable to format the composite data stream into composite data packets to be launched onto the network.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): A network destination device connectable to a network, the device comprising:

a processor to receive audio data packets representing an audio signal, to receive audio level data packets carrying audio level data representing an audio level of the audio signal, and display a user interface including a user indication representing a current value of the audio level data.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): A device according to claim 11, in which the user interface comprises means for generating a visible indication, for display on a display screen, indicative of a current value of the audio level data.

Claim 13 (Original): A device according to claim 12, comprising a display screen.

Claim 14 (Canceled).

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): A device according to claim 11, in which the audio level data represents values of the audio level at periodic intervals.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): A device according to claim 11, the device being selectively operable to receive the audio level data packets but not to receive the audio data packets.

Claim 17 (Original): A device according to claim 1, the device being operable to launch the audio packets onto the network substantially in real time.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): A data network comprising:

one or more devices according to claim 1;

one or more network destination devices operable to receive audio data packets representing an audio signal and being operable to receive audio level data packets carrying audio level data representing an audio level of the audio signal, the one or more network destination devices comprising a user interface arranged to provide a user indication representing a current value of the audio level data; and

a network providing data communication between the one or more devices according to claim 1 and the one or more network destination devices.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): A network interface device connectable to a network and operable to receive a composite data stream carrying digital video data and digital audio data, the digital audio data representing an audio signal, the device comprising:

a data converter for converting the digital audio data of the composite data stream into separate digital audio data;

an audio level detector having a processor programmed to generate, from audio properties of the separate digital audio data, audio level data representing an audio level of the audio signal;

a packetiser which is operable:

to format at least the digital video data of the composite data stream into video data packets to be launched onto the network,

to format the separate digital audio data into audio data packets to be launched onto the network, and

to format the audio level data into audio level data packets, separate from the audio data packets, to be launched onto the network.

Claim 20 (Original): A device according to claim 19, in which the packetiser is operable to format the composite data stream into composite data packets to be launched onto the network.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): A device according to claim 19, arranged to receive an AES audio stream, the packetiser being operable to format the separate digital audio data and the AES audio stream into audio data packets to be launched onto the network.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): A method of operation of a network interface device connectable to a network, the device being arranged to receive digital audio data representing an audio signal and, substantially in real time, to launch data packets representing the digital audio data onto the network, the method comprising:

generating, using a processor, audio level data representing an audio level of the audio signal;

formatting the digital audio data into audio data packets to be launched onto the network; and

formatting the audio level data into audio level data packets, separate from the audio data packets, to be launched onto the network.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): A method of operation of a network destination device connectable to a network, the device being operable to receive audio data packets

representing an audio signal and being operable to receive audio level data packets carrying audio level data representing an audio level of the audio signal, the method comprising:

displaying a user indication representing a current value of the audio level data.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): A method of operation of network interface device connectable to a network and operable to receive a composite data stream carrying digital video data and digital audio data, the digital audio data representing an audio signal, the method comprising:

converting the digital audio data of the composite data stream into separate digital audio data;

formatting at least the digital video data of the composite data stream into video data packets to be launched onto the network;

formatting the separate digital audio data into audio data packets to be launched onto the network;

generating, using a processor, audio level data representing an audio level of the audio signal;

formatting the audio level data into audio level data packets, separate from the audio data packets, to be launched onto the network.

Claims 25-29 (Canceled).